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LACK OF MEDICAL SUPPLIES SCORED;
PENICILLIN THERAPY FOR LUNGS SUGGEST

M. Balaban, senior purchaser for the Oblast Apothecary Administration, has criticized the lack of fresh supplies of anise or mint oils the past several years. He claims he has met with the usual double-talk every time he has attempted to ascertain the reason for removal of these useful commodities from the market.

Several Odessa doctors are wondering how much longer the people of this city are to be denied facilities of a good hospital. It appears that a hospital has been built and has facilities for 80 beds, but that ever since its completion the building has been used--of all things--as a warehouse for the Weight and Scales Factory imeni Starostin.

V. Popov, member of the staff of the Berkitsa Municipal Hospital adds his comments on the poor cooperation obtained by the hospital, particularly in obtaining supplies for the histological section and performance of biopsies. The Oblast Apothecary Administration never fully supplied materials required. Recently, the hospital was forced to procure a fairly large amount of alcohol. The Oblast Apothecary Administration has been unable to supply the hospital with formalin, carbolic acid, chloroethylene, and several other indispensable products. It is next to impossible to obtain laboratory glassware and other equipment.

This depressing picture is not without a bright side. B. Ravkind, a Leningrad physician, comments on the excellent results obtained by the use of penicillin therapy to control various purulent diseases of the lungs. He states that it is most effective during the active stage of the purulency, and that the cure is somewhat slower after encapsulation takes place. This difficulty has been somewhat overcome by either intratracheal or intrapulmonary administration of penicillin.

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The basic techniques, worked out on the basis of treatments on some 40 cases, all of whom recovered, are as follows: first, the location of the abscess is determined by means of X-ray; then local anesthesia is administered and an intrapulmonary puncture is made. It has been determined that patients are better able to withstand punctures than intermuscular injections. After the puncture is made, up to one million units of penicillin are applied directly on the area of the abscess. It is possible to administer two such treatments in a 24-hour period. So far the treatment has been used some 1,200 times, and there has not yet been one case of complications arising from its application. It must be noted, however, that in very severe cases of abscess, penicillin must be administered constantly while the needle is being withdrawn.

News from the various river basins tells of great activity taking place in preparation for the coming navigation season. For the first time many rivers will have so-called "floating dispensaries" to make medical service available to those unable to make the trip to the nearest medical station. These will be assigned to the Shchepna and Mar'insk river system, the Dnepr-Dzina basin, and the Moscow and Oka rivers.

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